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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

FIELD MEMORANDUM SCS-1141

Re: Service Responsibilities
for Woodland Conser-
vation Work Under
Secretary's Memorandum
No. 1278.

November 16, 1951

TO ALL RANKING WASHINGTON AND FIELD OFFICERS:

There is attached a memorandum signed by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, myself and approved by Under-Secretary McCormick. This memorandum recognizes the continuing responsibilities of the Soil Conservation Service in assisting farmers and ranchers with their conservation problems on woodlands.

To meet these responsibilities fully, we are satisfied that more attention needs to be given to the woodland aspects of the conservation program in many localities.

I am not at all certain that we have the necessary personnel to provide effective assistance on woodland conservation problems in even the more important farm woodland areas where such assistance is most needed. I understand that a number of forestry-trained men have been lost from the Service, and I am disturbed by that, as well as by the fact that recruitment of competent technicians in this field has not kept pace with the needs of the job. I urge that this situation be thoroughly analyzed and that such corrective action as the circumstances call for be taken promptly.

It is particularly important that sound working relations are established with the State Foresters. You should fully inform these officials of the progress of woodland conservation work in districts, discuss mutual problems with them, and to the fullest extent possible agree on joint action to meet these problems. Similar action should be taken with influential industrial groups.

Increased training activities to insure that our personnel are fully prepared to give effective assistance to district cooperators and others on woodland conservation problems will undoubtedly be necessary. In localities where we are at present inadequately staffed to provide the training needed, the possibilities of assistance from the State Forester's staff should be explored.

Prompt action should also be taken to move ahead with the joint consideration of technical guide material used in assisting land owners and operators with their conservation problems in woodlands.

It is most important that every effort be made to meet these responsibilities. The conservation and improvement of the Nation's woodlands is an integral part of the coordinated program of the Service and we will do all we can to see that it continues to be.

Ralph M. Salter

Chief

Attach.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington 25, D.C.

To: Regional Directors and State Conservationists, SCS
Chairmen, State PMA Committees
Regional Foresters, FS

From: Robert M. Salter, Chief, Soil Conservation Service
G. F. Geissler, Administrator, Production & Marketing
Administration
Lyle F. Watts, Chief, Forest Service

Subject: Forestry Responsibilities under Secretary's Memorandum
No. 1278

Forest Service and
Soil Conservation Service

In drafting the farm forestry sections of Memorandum No. 1278, the Secretary had two definite objectives in mind: (1) To make sure that farmers get the best forestry advice and assistance that the Department can give them; (2) to safeguard against duplication of the Department's forestry activities by specific provision for their coordination. Working relationships are outlined herein between the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service to achieve these objectives within the framework of Memorandum No. 1278. Four broad groups of activities are involved:

A. DEVELOPING INTEREST. BRING ABOUT AN APPRECIATION OF THE WOODLAND AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FARM ENTERPRISE BY HELPING FARMERS UNDERSTAND:

1. The importance of woodland cover for watershed protection and for carrying out complete acre-by-acre farm programs of soil and water conservation for such purposes as (a) preventing floods and soil erosion, (b) protecting fields and farmsteads from winds, (c) conserving water by holding and distributing rainfall and snow, (d) protecting livestock, and (e) for esthetic and recreational values.

2. The importance of woodlands as a source of wood products for farm use and for sale.

3. The relation of the use and treatment of woodlands to the use and treatment of other parts of the farm.

4. The opportunities for the profitable use of seasonal farm labor in woodland conservation work.

5. The opportunity for encouraging wildlife as a crop by developing protective woodlands, hedges, and strips.

6. The possibilities for increasing the total farm income by (a) establishing new woodlands where needed for soil and water conservation, and (b) by improving the existing woodlands through the use of adaptable conservation practices.

B. PLANNING, AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING FARM CONSERVATION PLANS, INCLUDING FINAL DETERMINATION BY THE LANDOWNERS, OF:

1. Land use within its capabilities, (a) the land to remain in trees, taking into consideration farm needs for woodland products and opportunities for sale of such products; (b) the existing woodland areas to be converted in part or entirely to other uses; (c) new woodlands to be established.

2. The recommended treatment, including (a) soil and water conservation practices, and (b) simple forestry measures.

3. Labor requirements, farm help available and to be hired, and sources of outside aid.

C. APPLICATION. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING OUT THE FARM CONSERVATION PLAN FOR WOODLAND AREAS:

1. Location and specifications for diversion terraces and other structures for erosion control in woodlands subject to erosion from cultivation of adjoining slopes, burning, or improperly placed roads and trails; and erosion control structures in woodlands when used as outlets for terraces and diversions from crop fields.

2. Fire protection, including (a) reduction of fire hazard by removal of inflammable material insofar as practicable; (b) provision for fire-control tools and equipment; (c) State laws on debris fires, etc.; (d) firebreak specifications and location.

3. Grazing protection: (a) Grazing periods and use when partial protection is needed; (b) location, types, specifications and costs of fencing, together with species and planting techniques for living fences.

4. Insect and disease control -- recognition of destructive insect or disease attacks. (Actual control to be referred to appropriate authority.)

5. Planting for erosion control, watershed protection, crop and farmstead protection, and for economic land use, including: (a) site preparation; (b) adapted species; (c) plan or arrangement of trees and shrubs; (d) planting techniques.

6. Maintenance of plantings -- cultivation, mulching, and protection.

7. Stand improvement not requiring extensive cutting and utilization of products, involving: (a) appraising condition of woodland; (b) assisting landowners and operators, on site, to understand the principles of and to utilize practicable guides for thinning, pruning, girdling, and other methods of stand improvement; (c) slash disposal; (d) preservation of wood products -- post treatment, etc.; (e) utilization of products ordinarily wasted as chips and sawdust for mulching, slash for pulp, pruning for Christmas greens, etc.

D. SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL FORESTRY ASSISTANCE.

1. Complex fire-protective problems.

2. Woodland management plans of a more detailed and complex character than those included under Item 2 of Group B.

3. Road layout (especially to avoid water runoff and soil erosion).

4. Extensive planting.

5. Timber marking and stand improvement requiring extensive cutting.

6. Logging methods and equipment.

7. Complete utilization for highest-value products.

8. Marketing.

With respect to Group A, it should be apparent that the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and other agencies should try to stimulate the interest of farmers in recognizing that their woodlands can contribute in various ways to the whole farm enterprise. Memorandum No. 1278 intended that all agencies would give even more, rather than less, emphasis to this selling job.

With respect to Item 1 in Group B, Memorandum No. 1278 specifically directs that these activities be continued by the Soil Conservation Service. To insure that there is no duplication or conflict, the

Forest Service will ask its State cooperators to recognize this Soil Conservation Service assignment and to discuss any question or disagreement concerning the designation of woodland areas with the Soil Conservation Service.

Item 2a of Group B and Item 1 of Group C involve practices and measures primarily for soil and water conservation and will continue to be the responsibility of the Soil Conservation Service.

Items B 2b and C 2,3,4,5,6, and 7 involve practices and measures for both soil and water conservation and increased forest productivity. Treatment of farm woodlands included in conservation plans prepared by farmers and ranchers with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, while primarily for soil and water conservation, should also provide for better forest practices. These plans should recognize that some simple steps toward increasing forest productivity usually can be taken, such as protection from fire; grazing management; use of less desirable species for fuelwood, posts, and other farm needs; removal of defective, crooked, and limby trees; and planting. Soil Conservation Service farm planners should continue to give this type of assistance on farms where they are helping to make conservation plans. Coordination of the work under these items involves agreement on the techniques to be used. Handbooks, technical guides, job sheets, and similar instructional material for use by Soil Conservation Service farm planners will be prepared or revised jointly by the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service with the active participation and advice of State agencies. Soil Conservation Service foresters will train farm planners in the use of these guides. Where farm woodland owners need more intensive technical forestry assistance than described above, the procedures applicable to Group D should apply. Pending availability of farm foresters, local working arrangements, taking into account assistance available from State forestry agencies, will be agreed to, thereby avoiding duplication and possible misunderstandings.

Group D will be handled by the Forest Service in cooperation with the State Foresters in accordance with approved procedure in handbooks and other policy statements. Arrangements for providing such assistance will be developed by the Forest Service, the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, and the State Foresters. In the relatively few places where the Soil Conservation Service is now providing this type of advice and assistance, it will continue to do so until the Forest Service can provide the needed services. Sometimes the work to be done is of such size and character that it should be referred directly to private consulting foresters.

Forest Service and
Production and Marketing Administration

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1278 assigns to the Forest Service responsibilities in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program of PMA as follows:

1. Determination of soil conservation practices, and rates of payment, to be included in the program — joint participation with PMA and SCS. (See paragraphs II-B-6 and II-E-2 of Memorandum No. 1278.)
2. Development of specifications of forestry practices included in the ACP. (See paragraph II-E-2 of the Memorandum.)
3. Determining compliance in meeting specifications of forestry practices — working through PMA State and County Committees. (See paragraph II-E-2 of the Memorandum.)

These responsibilities will be handled at the State level by a Forest Service employee designated to act as Forest Service representative for the State. In carrying out these responsibilities, Forest Service representatives will seek the advice and active participation of State forestry agencies. Memorandum No. 1278 intends, however, that responsibility for final decision shall be with Federal agencies concerned.

ACP practice specifications (called "standards" of forestry practice in Memorandum No. 1278) will be published in the individual State or county handbooks or by reference therein to published documents. Forest Service representatives will develop with State PMA Committees the needed specifications for a State and such revision as may be necessary to fit them to individual counties. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to insure that the forestry specifications it recommends are consistent with those of other Department programs.

Responsibility 3 will be handled by Forest Service representatives working through PMA State and County Committees. As in the past, PMA committeemen will obtain farmers' reports of compliance with specifications for forestry practices, and will make arrangements for required farm inspections. The Forest Service representatives will arrange for any necessary review of this activity on a sampling basis to insure that the work of committeemen in determining compliance with forestry practices is being satisfactorily performed. The forester providing the required technical assistance on forest stand improvement will certify compliance for that practice where this arrangement is satisfactory to the PMA County and State Committees.

As the Forest Service has no county organization, counties will formulate their own AC Programs as in the past but the Forest Service representative assigned to the State will review and approve the forestry practices selected. If advice is needed by a county in deciding on forestry practices, the Forest Service representative will try to get a local forester, Federal or State, to meet with the county committee.

The Forest Service will provide technical forestry assistance to ACP participants wherever available. Many ACP participants will not need technical forestry advice and assistance; such help as is needed usually can be furnished by county agents, SCS employees and PMA committeemen, using leaflets and other informational material which the Forest Service will prepare. Some group training of PMA committeemen may be desirable, and where needed will be arranged for by Forest Service.


Periodic review of progress under the above procedures will be made to determine if the intent of Memorandum No. 1278 is being satisfactorily attained.



Chief, Forest Service

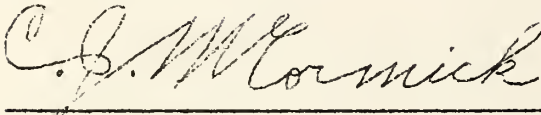


Chief, Soil Conservation Service



Administrator,
Production & Marketing Administration

Approved:



Under Secretary
November 13, 1951

